(c) whether some Pakistanis, have been arrested from the coastal areas of Gujarat;

(d) if so, whether they belonged to any terrorist outfit; and

(e) the details of the steps taken by Government for intensifying the security of the coastal areas of Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (e) Intelligence agencies keep sending us advisories on Coastal Security which are acted upon by Navy and Coast Guard expeditiously. In view of the sensitivity of coastal security of this region, an integrated approach has been put in place to strengthen the coastal security. The coastal surveillance and patrolling has been enhanced. Joint and operational exercises are taking place on regular basis between Navy, Coast Guard, Coastal Police, Customs and others to check the effectiveness of the new systems. During the current year, a total of 14 Pakistani fishing boats with 109 Pakistani crew have been apprehended by Coast Guard whilst fishing in Indian waters for violation under MZI Act 1981. The apprehended fishing boats along with crew had been handed over to local police at designated port 'Okha'.

Extension of TUFS

1408. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the request of Andhra Pradesh Government to his Ministry to direct the Minister of Finance to extend the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme benefits up to the year 2011; and

(b) the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme has been extended over the entire 11th Plan period *i.e.* upto 31.3.2012.

Acquisition of sophisticated weapons for defence of Indian coast line

1409. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHWARWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased lo state:

(a) whether Government has undertaken comprehensive review and measures to shore up maritime security especially after Mumbai terror attacks last year;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government is considering acquisitions of sophisticated equipment to bolster defences of the 7,500 km. long coast line; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) Government has accorded top priority for beefing up coastal security. After careful review of the same, an integrated approach has been put in place. The intelligence-sharing mechanism has been streamlined through the

creation of Joint Operation Centres and multi agency coordination mechanism. The coastal surveillance and patrolling has been enhanced. Joint and operational exercises are taking place on regular basis between Navy. Coast Guard. Coastal Police and Customs in order to check the effectiveness of the new systems. The increase of manpower, assets and other infrastructure required for strengthening the coastal security and meeting the security threats is an ongoing process.

Firms blacklisted in consultation with CVC

1410. SHRI DHARAMPAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has blacklisted some firms after consultations with the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC);

(b) if so, the details thereof and names of such firms;

(c) whether Government is aware that in number of tenders floated by Government, there exist middle-man; and

(d) if so, the steps Government has taken to make it mandatory to deal directly with vendors through competitive international biddings?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) The following decisions have been taken after consultations with the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) in respect of seven firms/companies/suppliers/vendors, supplying defence equipment to the armed forces during the last 2 years and the current year *i.e.* M/s Israeli Military Industries, Israel; M/s Singapore Technology, Singapore; M/s HYT Engg; M/s T.S. Kishan and Co. Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi; M/s R.K. Machine Tools; M/s BBT, Poland; M/s Media Architects Pte, Ltd., Singapore:-

(i) Where contracts have been concluded and also executed, action should be taken against the companies, as per the provisions of the contract, on completion of the CBI investigation.

(ii) In regard to the tender cases of procurement/execution, where the tender process has already been started and where the companies mentioned in the FIR are figuring, each case should be dealt as per the tender conditions, keeping in view the FIR in question. No tender should be awarded to the companies mentioned in the FIR unless the CBI investigation clears them totally.

(iii) The tender cases of procurement/execution, where the tender process has not yet started, there should be no dealing with the companies mentioned in the FIR, till the finalization of investigation.

(iv) Contracts that have been entered into and are being executed or pending execution, shall remain on hold. In these cases, further action will be taken as per the contractual provisions on receipt of the investigation report of the CBI.